

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED**

JUN 7 2006

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name	Kirwin City Hall
Other name/site number	147-2880-0003

2. Location

Street & number	<u>1st & Main Streets</u>			<input type="checkbox"/> not for publication					
City or town	<u>Kirwin</u>			<input type="checkbox"/> vicinity					
State	Kansas	Code	KS	County	Phillips	Code	147	Zip code	67644

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patrick Zellmer DSHPO

4/21/06

Signature of certifying official/Title
Kansas State Historical Society

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of commenting official /Title

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- ☐ entered in the National Register. _____
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register _____
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- ☐ removed from the National Register _____
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Kirwin City Hall
Name of Property

Phillips Co., Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter Categories from instructions)

Government: City Hall

Government: Fire Station

Education: Library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: City Hall

Education: Library

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Collegiate Gothic

Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Limestone

Walls: Brick

Roof: Asphalt

Other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Kirwin City Hall
Name of Property

Phillips Co., Kansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Politics/Government

Education

Period of Significance

1916-1955

Significant Dates

1916

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

E. T. Archer & Co.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Kirwin City Library

Kirwin City Hall
Name of Property

Phillips Co., Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	4	4	8	9	5	2	0	4	3	9	1	2	7	0
Zone	Easting				Northing										
2															

3															
Zone	Easting				Northing										
4															

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Melissa Stockman Johnson, City Clerk and Librarian; Edited by KSHS Staff

Organization City of Kirwin Date 12/28/04

Street & number 1st & Main- Telephone 785-543-6652

City or town Kirwin State KS Zip code 67644-0446

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name City of Kirwin

Street & number 1st & Main Telephone 785-543-6652

City or town Kirwin State KS Zip code 67644-0446

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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Kirwin City Hall
Phillips Co., Kansas

Description

Summary

Located in the center of the public square where 1st Street and Main Street intersect, the Kirwin City Hall is a two-story, red brick civic building constructed 1915-1916 in the Collegiate Gothic style with some Craftsman-style influences. The approximately 37X40 feet rectangular building rests upon a continuous limestone foundation and is covered by a distinctive side gable roof with gable end parapets. The roof is clad with red asphalt shingles that mimic the original red asbestos tile. The open eaves on the front and rear elevations have exposed rafter tails. The brick parapets are capped with Indiana limestone, and an interior brick chimney is present on the eastern parapet. An original one-story brick enclosed porch is located on the east elevation.

Exterior

The front, or southern, elevation features a prominent central entry formed by a large Gothic-style, pointed-arch with a brick-filled spandrel. In the center of the spandrel, a rectangular limestone inset is inscribed with "FD" denoting the building's former use as a fire department. Originally, the entrance contained double-leaf wood-paneled doors to provide access for the fire wagons. This entrance has since been converted to a modern aluminum-frame, double-leaf entry with sidelights. A three-window bay is located to either side of the entrance. The bays, each containing a central nine-over-one, double-hung wood window flanked by two six-over-one, double-hung wood windows, are enframed by projecting brickwork that extends below the sill to the limestone foundation. The second story is fenestrated by three symmetrically arranged pairs of nine-over-one, double-hung wood windows. The central pair of windows is slightly wider in size.

The eastern elevation contains the one-story enclosed brick porch that features a central entrance with a segmental brick arch adorned with exaggerated limestone imposts and keystone. The original entry has been replaced with an aluminum-frame, single-leaf door with sidelights. The porch is fenestrated on the north and south elevations by a single eighteen-pane fixed wood window. The flat roof of the porch is surrounded by a simple metal stick balustrade and is accessed by second-story single-leaf door with transom. This entry is flanked on both sides by small nine-over-one, double-hung windows. The main body of the east elevation is fenestrated by two large twelve-over-one, double-hung wood windows symmetrically arranged two per floor. The windows feature projecting brick flat arched lintels. In the gable end, a rectangular limestone inset is inscribed "CITY HALL 1916." A small rectangular louvered vent is positioned above this signboard.

The rear, or northern, elevation is arranged similarly to the front elevation and features an arched central entrance identical to the front. The original nine-paneled, double-leaf wood doors remain on this

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Kirwin City Hall
Phillips Co., Kansas

entrance but are now sealed off on the interior. A nine-over-one window is located to the east of the central entrance and is enframed by two sets of decorative projecting brickwork. The same window opening to the west has been extended to the foundation level and is currently filled in with white-painted plywood. The second story fenestration is identical to the front elevation.

The west elevation contained a single-leaf entrance in the center of the façade that has since been infilled with white-painted plywood. The door originally accessed a restroom and was closed due to vandalism. The former entry is flanked by two small six-over-one windows, and the entire ensemble is united under an exaggerated projecting brick lintel with drip molds. An eight-over-one is located to the north of the center bay, and a modern wheel-chair accessible single-leaf entrance with an aluminum-frame door and transom is to the south of the center bay. Both openings are crowned by projecting brick flat-arched lintels. The south entrance was likely originally a window. The second story is fenestrated by four equal-sized and placed twelve-over-one, double-hung wood windows that have projecting brick flat-arched lintels. A limestone inset inscribed with "1916" is located in the gable end below a rectangular louvered vent.

Interior

The ground floor originally contained a jail room 11x12, an office 12x14, the Electric Substation 12x14, double toilet rooms, 8x12 each, a hose room 37x12 and a hall and stairway. The toilet rooms, the hose room and the substation had cement floors and all other rooms had wooden floors. The second floor contained the Library Room 35x38, which also doubled for city council meetings and the municipal courtroom. There was an 8x12 bandstand above the enclosed porch on the east side of the building. The upstairs were originally accessed by a stairway coming from the east entrance.

Today there are a total of four rooms in the building. The ground floor houses the city office and a library. The ground floor has been altered by the installation of carpeting and wood paneling over the original plaster walls. The second story serves its original purpose as a library, with approximately 3,000 books dating back to the beginning of the library. A carpeted children's section has been added. The plaster walls upstairs have not been covered, and the library still maintains the original wood flooring. The upstairs is now accessed by a stairway coming through the city office.

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Kirwin City Hall
Phillips Co., Kansas

Statement of Significance

Summary

Built in 1916, the Kirwin City Hall is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the growth and development of Kirwin and under Criterion C as an example of an early 20th century civic building exhibiting an unusual blend of Collegiate Gothic and Craftsman styles of architecture. The city hall stands in the heart of the community both figuratively and literally. Kirwin City Hall is located in the center of the town square and originally housed several different public offices, a firehouse, a jail, and a library.

Brief History of Kirwin

Colonel John S. Kirwin originally established a fort in the vicinity of the current town of Kirwin in 1865 for the protection of overland emigrants to California. After a brief stay, Col. Kirwin left the fort, and it soon fell into disrepair. In 1869, settlers started a community named Benton in the vicinity of the fort, and the name was changed shortly afterward to Kirwin in memory of Col. Kirwin. Kirwin was the first white settlement in Phillips County. The town site cost the founding fathers a total of \$800.

In 1874, the US Government Land office moved from Cawker City to Kirwin and remained there until 1896, when it was moved to Colby. Kirwin boomed during that time; churches, drug stores, hotels, sawmills, tailors, and attorneys all flourished.¹ The first post office was established in 1871, the first store and the first hotel were established in 1872, the first railroad station in the county was built in 1879 to accommodate the Leavenworth & Pike's Peak Express, and the first train reached Kirwin on November 3, 1879 with 1,000 people present. Kirwin was chartered as a town on July 24, 1880. The Kirwin Elevator was built in 1884 and the Kirwin Opera House was built in 1885. Throughout Kirwin's history there have been several different newspapers.

In 1878, Phillips County boasted a population of 5,436, of which Kirwin's population numbered 1,118. The population of Kirwin Township increased by 1880 to 1,421 people.² By the year 1915 the total population of Phillips County had increased to 13,220.

Historical photographs of Kirwin during the late 19th and early 20th century show numerous buildings that had been built along the main thoroughfare. They included a large bank, a hardware store, a garage, an emporium and a drug store.

¹ Hurst, C.S., Kirwin Dam Dedication, 1955.

² Cutler, William G., History of the State of Kansas. A.T. Andreas: Chicago, IL, 1883.

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Kirwin City Hall
Phillips Co., Kansas

History of City Hall

The original library and fire station were housed in two separate buildings and the townspeople were paying rent on both buildings. In March 1915 the town council met and new proposals for a city hall that would unify several offices, an Electrical Light System, and a new schoolhouse were put before the members. Arguments were put forth that money would be saved on the rent they were paying for the two different buildings housing the library, the firehouse and several other offices. These could be included all under one roof.³ The costs on a \$12,000 bond for Electric Lights and a City Hall were tabulated and presented at the next meeting. The cost amounted to \$1.33 per year extra tax, "about what you would have to pay for one of these little hand flash lights, and Electric Lights and Street Lamps are a heap better."⁴

In April of 1915 the bond was passed to erect a new City Hall and install an Electric Light System. The vote was favorable 2 to 1. The new building would house the Council Room, Assembly Room, Hose House, Library Room, and Jail.⁵

In 1912 the Kirwin Library was organized by a group of women in town and originally housed in Landes hall. Books and furnishings were donated and the library was open three days a week. The band boys were allowed to practice one evening a week, and Sunday school was held one night a week. Traveling book trunks were received for the town's use for six-month periods, increasing the variety of books offered.

During World War I, the library books were moved to the first floor of the City Hall to save on fuel costs to heat and light the upstairs room. In 1921 a levy was passed to keep up with the library expenses, and the library moved back upstairs and the stairs were relocated to open up the upper east side of the building to more useable space for the library.

Today the library houses antique books, magazines and newspapers dating back to 1891. The City Hall houses memorabilia from all one-room schoolhouses in the area, including slate, books, a desk, pictures, and more. The City Hall also houses a safe from the original Kirwin Citizens National Bank, which now holds all ordinances, water utility papers, documents from Col. Kirwin, deeds and titles, and other miscellaneous historical items. Many people now come to the Kirwin City Hall to research their family history using much of these documents.

³ "A City Hall, Electric Lights and a New Schoolhouse?" Kirwin Kansan 10 March, 1915

⁴ "What Will They Cost?" Kirwin Kansan 17 March, 1915

⁵ "Run Up the Striped Flag!!! The Bonds for Electric Lights and The City hall Carried by Majorities of Almost Two to One." Kirwin Kansan 14 April, 1915

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Kirwin City Hall
Phillips Co., Kansas

Architecture

The architectural design firm that bid on the project for both the Electrical Light System and the Kirwin City Hall was E.T. Archer and Associates. The firm boasted an employment roster of over thirty engineers, each specializing in some branch of Municipal Engineering. It had been in business for seventeen years, working throughout much of the Midwest. Many of the projects they worked on in Kansas were: street paving, electric light and power projects, sanitary sewer systems, and only one known city hall in Kirwin.⁶

The Kirwin City Hall is an interesting product of the Arts and Crafts movement that blends the Collegiate Gothic style, which is seen primarily in the prominent pointed-arch entries, with some traditional Craftsman style influences. Common during the late 19th and early 20th century, the Collegiate Gothic style was used in many university buildings, post offices, courthouses and other public buildings.

Brick or limestone was the primary material used for Collegiate Gothic buildings. The Kirwin City Hall combined this feature of red brick masonry with accents in Indiana limestone. The Collegiate Gothic Style, like its Gothic Revival predecessor, made use of pointed arches extensively. The Kirwin City Hall boasts prominent arched doorways on both the north and south entrances of the building. Slate tiles were commonly used on the steeply pitched roofs of buildings designed in this style. The Kirwin City Hall does have a steeply pitched roof, but the architect utilized red asbestos tiles in place of slate tiles. The building has an abundance of windows, and it seems that Archer may have been influenced by the Craftsman style, which was increasingly popular in residential construction at the time, when it came to window design. The typical Craftsman-style window featured multiple-pane-over-one, double-hung sashes often arranged in pairs or window ribbons. The Craftsman style influence is also seen in the exposed rafter ends of side gable eaves.

Conclusion

Kirwin City Hall was a much-needed building in 1915. The town was prospering, and the Kirwin City Hall brought the community together. There was a higher turnout of voters over the bond issue to finance this building than for a city election the previous week.⁷ The bonds were passed, the building was built, and electricity was brought to town. The Kirwin City Hall has been in continual use since construction and today houses the City Clerk's office and the library.

⁶ E.T. Archer & Co. Consulting Engineers (E.T. Archer & Co., publication date unknown)

⁷ "Run Up the Striped Flag!!! The Bonds for Electric Lights and The City Hall Carried by Majorities of Almost Two to One." Kirwin Kansan 14 April, 1915

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Kirwin City Hall
Phillips Co., Kansas

Bibliography

E. T. Archer & Co. Consulting Engineers (E. T. Archer & Co., publication date unknown).

"A City Hall, Electric Lights and a New Schoolhouse?" *Kirwin Kansan*. 10 March, 1915.

"What Will They Cost?" *Kirwin Kansan*. 17 March, 1915.

"Run Up the Striped Flag!!! The Bonds for Electric Lights and The City Hall Carried by Majorities of Almost Two to One." *Kirwin Kansan*. 14 April, 1915.

"Regarding the City Hall" *Kirwin Kansan*. 21 April, 1915.

"Began Business" *Kirwin Kansan*. 5 May, 1915.

"City Hall Located" *Kirwin Kansan*. 9 June, 1915.

"How Shall We Celebrate?" *Kirwin Kansan*. 3 May, 1916.

Kirwin Kansan, Vol. 26, No. 40. 28 July, 1915.

Leavenworth & Pike's Peak 125 Anniversary. Compiled by Marsha C. Squires Magley. Littleton, CO: Prints Valiant, 1984.

Saga of Old Fort Kirwin (1869) and History of the Kirwin, Kansas Community. Helen Sharp, et al. published locally, 1969.

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Kirwin City Hall
Phillips Co., Kansas

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 13-14, Block B, Original City of Kirwin.

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all of the land historically associated with the nominated property.

Photographs

The following information is consistent for all photographs:

1. Kirwin City Hall
2. Phillips County, Kansas
3. Photograph by Brenda Spencer
4. July 18, 2005
5. Negative on file at Kansas State Historical Society

The following information is specific to each photograph:

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Description of View</u>
1.	View from the southeast.
2.	View from the south.
3.	View from the east.
4.	View from the northwest.
5.	View of front entrance from the south.
6.	View of front window detail from the south.
7.	View of eave detail from the south.
8.	View of rear elevation from the northeast.
9.	View of safe in east elevation enclosed porch section.
10.	View of western section of first floor (library).
11.	View of staircase in the eastern section of the first floor (city office).
12.	View of second-floor door and trim.
13.	View of eastern section of second floor (library).
14.	View of western section of second floor (children's room).
15.	View of window and ceiling detail, western section of second floor from the east.